(b) if so, the details of the shocking incident; and

(c) the action taken by Government and the Bar Council of Patna High Court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

River Transport in Ganga

1908. SHRI LALU PRASAD:
SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to begin river transport on Ganga between Allahabad and Haldia;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision to carry out necessary dredging of the river in the above stretch to facilitate riverine movement;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to operate commercial services on the above riverine route; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The river Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia has been declared as National Waterway No. 1 and basic infrastructural facilities, namely, navigable channel, navigational aids and terminals are being provided on the waterway to enable transport by inland vessels. For making navigable channel with desired depth, dredging is carried out during the low water season at the shallow patches in stretches whenever it is possible.

(c) and (d)The Central Inland Water Transport Corporation operates commercial service by inland vessels on the waterway. Other operators, private or public can also operate their inland vessels.